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Proposed strategic framework for the period 2008-2009

Part two: biennial programme plan

Programme 15
Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific

Contents

	Page
Overall orientation	2
Subprogramme 1. Poverty and development	4
Subprogramme 2. Statistics	5
Subprogramme 3. Development of Pacific island countries and territories	7
Subprogramme 4. Trade and investment	8
Subprogramme 5. Transport and tourism	9
Subprogramme 6. Environment and sustainable development	11
Subprogramme 7. Information, communication and space technology	12
Subprogramme 8. Social development, including persistent and emerging issues	13
Legislative mandates	14

* A/61/50 and Corr.1.

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Overall orientation

15.1 The mandate of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) is to promote economic and social development in the Asian and Pacific region by fostering cooperation between its members and associate members. The mandate of the programme derives from Economic and Social Council resolutions 37 (IV) and 414 (XIII), by which the Commission was established.

15.2 The mandate has been set forth in greater detail in various resolutions adopted subsequently by the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission. In particular, the Shanghai Declaration, adopted by the Commission in its resolution 60/1, emphasizes the need for regional cooperation and capacity-building to meet development challenges in an era of globalization, including those pertaining to the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals targets by 2015.

15.3 Asia and the Pacific is a region of diversity and disparity. It has some of the world's fastest growing economies, largest production bases and consumer markets, and most active trading partners. It has achieved a spectacular reduction in income poverty. However, the economic prosperity and dynamism of parts of the region conceal the destitution of the 680 million people who constitute two thirds of the world's poor. The region has 36 least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, and small island developing States. Moreover, it is frequently affected by natural disasters, which threaten efforts towards economic growth, poverty reduction and sustainable development.

15.4 While the region has made rapid progress towards achieving many of the Millennium Development Goals, no one country is expected to meet all the goal-related targets, although all countries are implementing all 18 targets. The targets of particular concern in the region are those for maternal health, child mortality and environmental sustainability.

15.5 A key challenge lies in finding ways to achieve growth while managing the natural resource base in a sustainable and integrated manner, reducing pollution, mitigating the impact of natural disasters and, generally, keeping within the region's ecological capacity. This will mean moving on from the conventional approach of "grow first, clean up later" to one that promotes a knowledge-based economy and harmonizes economic growth with environmentally sound and sustainable technologies.

15.6 The overall objective of ESCAP during the programme plan biennium 2008-2009 will build on the direction adopted for the biennium 2006-2007, namely, to promote equitable access to opportunities for both men and women, communities and economies, leading to the economic and social advancement of the region. During the biennium 2008-2009, ESCAP will emphasize strengthening institutional capacities to serve the rights of the people and address their aspirations and needs. Institutional change at all levels will be required to ensure more efficient and effective delivery of essential services to the region's growing population, increasing the demand for adequate food, clothing, housing, water, energy and transport infrastructure, together with other basic needs.

15.7 ESCAP will pursue that objective by continuing to focus on its three thematic priorities:

(a) Poverty reduction;

(b) Managing globalization;

(c) Addressing emerging social issues, as reaffirmed in the Shanghai Declaration.

15.8 ESCAP will endeavour to support countries of the region in building national capacities in:

(a) Strengthening and implementing equitable and sustainable economic and social development policies and programmes, including regulatory and institutional frameworks;

(b) Preparing for, participating in and benefiting from multilateral and regional trade, transport, information and communication technology, energy and environmental partnerships and agreements;

(c) Building effective partnerships with civil society entities and the private sector;

(d) Reviewing progress in achieving the internationally agreed development goals and targets adopted at global and regional conferences.

15.9 In supporting regional efforts and actions on commitments made at global and regional conferences in connection with the Millennium Development Goals, ESCAP will concentrate on issues, goals and targets that are most effectively addressed through regional cooperation, including harmonization of legal and regulatory frameworks, and addressing areas of common concern among countries that would benefit from an exchange of experiences, the sharing of good practices, mutual technical support and agreement on joint action.

15.10 The ESCAP programme of work will provide an integrated framework through which normative, analytical and technical cooperation work will be undertaken. ESCAP will strengthen regional-level analysis, including a review of socio-economic performance in the region to identify trends, highlight good practices and foster regional cooperation. Technical cooperation activities will be designed to facilitate the implementation of norms and standards agreed by ESCAP members and associate members to assist countries in the region to achieve internationally agreed goals and targets. Interventions will include policy consultation and advocacy, knowledge-sharing, training and advisory services.

15.11 One priority will be mainstreaming gender concerns across subprogrammes to promote gender equality. Particular attention will be given to promoting, in diverse development sectors, a rights-based approach to the participation of vulnerable groups, especially the poor, women, youth, people with diverse disabilities, older persons and people living with HIV/AIDS.

15.12 ESCAP will pay specific attention to the needs of least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition by mainstreaming those needs across subprogrammes and according priority to them in technical cooperation. Given the special geographical situation and needs of the Pacific island developing countries and territories, ESCAP will pay particular

attention to strengthening their capacity to develop and manage economic and social policies and programmes.

15.13 ESCAP will use its convening authority and mobilize its networks in diverse development sectors to promote multilevel and multisectoral responses for sustainable development, with a focus on strengthening institutional capacity for more equitable access to and utilization of services and opportunities.

15.14 To enhance coherence across the United Nations system, ESCAP will work in close cooperation and coordination with other multilateral bodies and specialized agencies, especially with members of the United Nations Development Group through such modalities as the Regional Coordination Meeting, which is chaired by ESCAP and comprises all regional United Nations entities in Asia and the Pacific. ESCAP will seek greater clarity in the roles and responsibilities of global and regional bodies with regard to the follow-up to the outcomes of major global conferences. Particular emphasis will be placed on collaboration with other regional intergovernmental organizations.

Subprogramme 1
Poverty and development

Objective of the Organization: to ensure progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals through the adoption and implementation of policies and programmes for economic growth, development and poverty reduction, by Governments, civil society and the private sector in Asia and the Pacific, particularly in the least developed countries

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Increased national capacity to formulate and implement effective, sustainable and gender-responsive economic and development policies for achieving the Millennium Development Goals, particularly in the area of poverty reduction	(a) Increased number of measures taken by policymakers and planners to ensure that economic and development policies for achieving the Millennium Development Goals, particularly those related to reducing poverty, are more effective, sustainable and gender-responsive
(b) Increased capacity of Governments, civil society and the private sector in Asia and the Pacific, particularly the least developed countries, to formulate and implement poverty reduction programmes that are effective, sustainable and gender-responsive and that focus on economically vulnerable groups	(b) Increased number of measures taken in countries to formulate and implement poverty reduction programmes that are effective, sustainable and gender-responsive
(c) Improved national capacity to formulate and implement development policies, projects and/or research programmes that reduce rural poverty through the sustainable development of secondary crops	(c) Increased percentage of participants in ESCAP activities who are able to formulate and implement rural development policies, research programmes or projects that include sustainable development of secondary crops

Strategy

15.15 The substantive responsibility for this subprogramme lies with the Poverty and Development Division, with support from the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Secondary Crops Development in Asia and the Pacific. The strategic direction of the subprogramme derives mainly from the internationally agreed development goals, including those on poverty reduction, contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the Monterrey Consensus on financing for development, the 2005 World Summit Outcome, the Economic and Social Council mandate on the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Secondary Crops Development in Asia and the Pacific, ESCAP resolution 62/1 on achieving the Millennium Development Goals in the ESCAP region and other relevant mandates. With its substantive focus on poverty reduction, the subprogramme will promote pro-poor economic growth, the provision of basic services, and good governance (including the right to access services) as a means to tackle the three dimensions of poverty, namely, lack of income and productive assets, lack of access to basic services and lack of participation in decision-making. The subprogramme will increase the capacity of Governments, civil society and the private sector to design and implement policies and programmes for social and economic development and poverty reduction through a combination of normative-analytical and capacity-development activities. In order to broaden the impact of its activities and to support replication and up-scaling of good practices, ESCAP will collaborate with other entities and agencies in the United Nations system, other bilateral and multilateral agencies and regional, subregional and national intergovernmental, private-sector and civil-society organizations and networks in Asia and the Pacific.

Subprogramme 2
Statistics

Objective of the Organization: to improve the production, dissemination and use of key demographic, social, economic and environmental statistics, including the Millennium Development Goals indicators, by National Statistical Systems in Asia and the Pacific, in accordance with international-agreed standards and good practices

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Increased national capacity in Asia and the Pacific, particularly the least developed countries, to provide data required for measuring progress towards achieving internationally agreed development goals	(a) Increased number of national statistical systems that are able to provide data according to international statistical standards for measuring progress towards achieving national and internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals
(b) Increased access to comparable development and short-term indicators for policymakers, the development community and the public at large	(b) Increased number of freely accessible websites providing official statistics that conform to international standards and good practices, reflect gender concerns and indicate progress towards achieving national and internationally agreed development goals

(c) Increased knowledge and understanding of key national and regional socio-economic trends, especially progress towards the Millennium Development Goals, by national official statisticians and policymakers in the Asia and Pacific region	(c) Increased percentage of national statisticians and policymakers who indicate that they found ESCAP analytical outputs on national and regional socio-economic trends, especially progress towards the Millennium Development Goals, relevant and useful

Strategy

15.16 The substantive responsibility for this subprogramme lies with the Statistics Division, with support from the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific. The strategic direction of the subprogramme derives mainly from General Assembly resolutions on the Millennium Declaration and the 2005 World Summit Outcome, especially as they relate to monitoring of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals; and ESCAP resolutions on the statute of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific, and on strengthening statistical capacity in Asia and the Pacific. The objective of the subprogramme will be achieved through a balanced combination of normative, analytical and technical cooperation activities to strengthen the capacity of national statistical systems to measure the achievement of their national and internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. The availability of data and analyses for regional reviews on the progress in achieving the development goals will also be improved.

15.17 During the biennium 2008-2009, the subprogramme will focus on assisting the development of social and demographic statistics, and promoting the improvement of data and measurement for assessing the role of the informal economy on economic growth, poverty reduction and gender equality. In addition, it will continue to facilitate the implementation of existing and new classifications of economic and social statistics, including national accounts, and to promote the improvement of health information, measurements on migration, data on gender-related issues and other social statistics. To enhance coherence across the United Nations system, ESCAP will work in close cooperation and coordination with other multilateral bodies and specialized agencies in coordination and collaboration with relevant international organizations, including the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations specialized agencies, development banks and funds, subregional organizations and statistical partnerships and networks. Internal statistical information and advisory services will contribute to various outputs of other subprogrammes of ESCAP.

Subprogramme 3
Development of Pacific island countries and territories

Objective of the Organization: to develop and implement policies for the achievement of relevant development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, in the Pacific, taking into account the special needs of the small island developing States, as contained in the Mauritius Strategy

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Increased national capacities to develop policies and strategies to improve the lives of vulnerable groups	(a) Increased number of effective measures implemented to improve the livelihoods of vulnerable groups
(b) Improved subregional cooperation to strengthen sustainable economic and social development of small island developing States	(b) Increased number of good practices shared between the Asia and the Pacific subregions in implementing the Millennium Development Goals and the Mauritius strategy

Strategy

15.18 The substantive responsibility for this subprogramme lies with the ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre. The Centre will work on attaining the objectives of the subprogramme in close collaboration with other United Nations entities, as well as international and regional agencies, including the Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific. The strategic orientations for the subprogramme are derived from the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, the 2005 World Summit Outcome, and ESCAP resolutions on the revitalization of the United Nations, the ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre, the regional follow-up to the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, and the strengthening of Pacific island developing countries and territories through regional cooperation.

15.19 The subprogramme aims to strengthen the capacity of Pacific island policymakers to develop and manage economic and social policies, with a view to achieving the Millennium Development Goals targets by 2015. To achieve this goal, the subprogramme will provide assistance to policymakers in integrating the Millennium Development Goals into national development plans and strategies; build capacity to develop measures to improve the livelihoods of vulnerable groups and strengthen urban planning and management capabilities; and promote sustainable development in line with the Mauritius Strategy. Particular emphasis will be placed in the least developed countries in the subregion and to sharing best practices between the Asian and Pacific subregions in implementing the Millennium Development Goals and the Mauritius Strategy. Particular emphasis will also be placed on ensuring that gender analysis is included as an integral part of all work carried out by the subprogramme.

Subprogramme 4
Trade and investment

Objective of the Organization: to achieve a more equitable distribution of benefits from the globalization process through increased trade and investment in support of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Increased national capacity to effectively negotiate, conclude and implement multilateral and other trade agreements supporting the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals	(a) (i) Increased number of member countries making progress towards becoming members of regional and multilateral trade agreements (e.g. Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement and World Trade Organization) (ii) Percentage of officials (stakeholders) benefiting from ESCAP activities who indicate that they can use or have used knowledge and skills to negotiate agreements and formulate and implement trade policies
(b) Increased capacity and regional cooperation to develop and implement trade efficiency policies and programmes to promote international competitiveness	(b) (i) Percentage of officials (stakeholders) benefiting from ESCAP activities who indicate that they can use or have used knowledge and skills to develop and implement trade efficiency policies and programmes (ii) Increased number of users of ESCAP online Trade Information Services for strengthened regional cooperation
(c) Increased capacity to design and implement polices and programmes that create an enabling environment for investment and promote a competitive business sector	(c) Percentage of officials (stakeholders) benefiting from ESCAP activities who indicate that they can use or have used knowledge and skills to design and implement policies and programmes that create an enabling environment for investment or promote a competitive business sector
(d) Increased capacity to design and implement policies and programmes that promote sustainable economic growth and rural poverty reduction through agro technology transfer and agro-based enterprise development	(d) Percentage of officials (stakeholders) benefiting from ESCAP activities who indicate that they can use or have used knowledge and skills acquired with assistance from the Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery to promote sustainable economic growth and poverty reduction in rural areas through transfer of agro technology and enterprise development

Strategy

15.20 The substantive responsibility for this subprogramme lies with the Trade and Investment Division, with support from the United Nations Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery. The strategic direction of the subprogramme derives mainly from the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, the 2005 World Summit Outcome, the Shanghai Declaration, the statute of the United Nations Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery, as well as managing globalization through strengthened regional cooperation in trade and investment. The challenge will be to provide for a more inclusive and equitable process of globalization among countries.

15.21 To meet its objectives, the subprogramme will support the efforts of ESCAP members and associate members to develop the capacity, institutions and legal and regulatory frameworks necessary to participate more effectively and competitively in international trade and investment activities. A key element will be to support the effective implementation of policies and programmes to enhance the trade and investment environment and to meet international obligations. This approach will contribute to more sustainable growth, poverty alleviation and realization of the Millennium Development Goals. The subprogramme will assist countries in the region to strengthen trade and investment policy regimes. In particular, assistance will be provided through issue-specific and practical training, exchange of experiences, provision of information and toolkits, integrated regional programmes, targeted advice and regional consensus-building, including multi-stakeholder policy dialogues. In undertaking trade capacity-building assistance, the subprogramme will accord priority to the special needs of least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, countries with economies in transition and small island developing States.

Subprogramme 5
Transport and tourism

Objective of the Organization: to strengthen national policies that contribute to the development of an integrated, international, intermodal transport system and promote sustainable transport and tourism

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Enhanced knowledge and capacity of national Governments, civil society and non-governmental organizations to develop and implement effective and sustainable transport and tourism policies and programmes, including those targeting the Millennium Development Goals, and road safety issues	(a) Increased number of national transport and tourism policy papers and programmes that reflect ESCAP-promoted initiatives

(b) Improved capability of national Governments and international financial institutions to use the Asian Highway, Trans-Asian Railway and other ESCAP-promoted initiatives for planning international intermodal transport linkages	(b) (i) Increased number of feasibility studies for investment projects and infrastructure improvements of intermodal connections on the Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway (ii) Increased number of countries acceding to global, regional and subregional agreements
(c) Increased capacity of national Governments and industry to implement measures to improve the efficiency of international transport operations and logistics	(c) (i) Increased number of initiatives to identify and remove bottlenecks along transport routes of international importance (ii) Increased number of demonstration runs of container block trains and scheduling of regular intermodal transport services along the Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway, and interregional routes

Strategy

15.22 The substantive responsibility for this subprogramme lies with the Transport and Tourism Division. The strategic direction of the subprogramme derives mainly from General Assembly resolutions on the Millennium Declaration and the 2005 World Summit Outcome, the Almaty Programme of Action, ESCAP resolutions on the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network, the Implementation of the Plan of Action for Sustainable Tourism Development in Asia and the Pacific, Phase II (2006-2012), and the Regional Action Programme for Sustainable Tourism Development, the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Trans-Asian Railway Network and other relevant mandates.

15.23 The subprogramme will focus on developing a vision of an integrated regional and interregional transport system that supports the development of coastal areas, hinterlands and landlocked countries by providing physical access to economic and social opportunities for all, and on fostering sound and sustainable development of transport and tourism. The subprogramme will identify investment requirements and priorities and address non-physical bottlenecks and create an institutional environment to encourage the development of inland container depots or dry ports with links to seaports and airports. Strategies to promote the improvement of dry ports as economic growth poles, creating jobs and reducing poverty, will also be initiated. In the area of tourism, the subprogramme will continue to concentrate on strengthening the role of tourism in socio-economic development, poverty reduction and achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Policies and initiatives to expand benefits from tourism in rural areas and poor communities will be promoted. The subprogramme will strengthen national capacities, at the request of members and associate members, so as to provide them with opportunities to benefit more fully from the globalization process and the alleviation of poverty, in accordance with global mandates and regional priorities.

Subprogramme 6
Environment and sustainable development

Objective of the Organization: to improve the environmental sustainability of economic growth and equitable access to natural resources, in line with internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Increased national capacity to develop and implement gender-responsive policies and programmes that contribute to green growth	(a) Increased percentage of participants in ESCAP activities who indicate that their level of competency has increased in applying a gender-responsive green-growth approach
(b) Increased national capacity to develop and apply gender-responsive socio-economic policy instruments to improve environmental management and performance	(b) Increased percentage of participants in ESCAP activities who indicate that their level of competency has increased in applying gender-responsive socio-economic policy instruments to improve environmental management and performance
(c) Increased national capacity to identify effective and gender-responsive policies and programmes for equitable access to, and efficient and cleaner production, management and use of, energy resources	(c) Increased percentage of participants in ESCAP activities who indicate that their level of competency has increased in identifying effective and gender-responsive policies and programmes for equitable access to, and efficient and cleaner production, management and use of, energy resources
(d) Increased national capacity in formulating effective and gender-responsive sustainable development policies and strategies on management of water resources and natural disasters	(d) Increased percentage of participants in ESCAP activities who indicate that their level of competency has increased in formulating effective and gender-responsive sustainable development policies and strategies on management of water resources and natural disasters

Strategy

15.24 The substantive responsibility for this subprogramme lies with the Environment and Sustainable Development Division. The subprogramme will focus on using innovative and pragmatic approaches in promoting equitable and environmentally sustainable economic growth for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and international agreements since 1992 and the implementation of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the outcome of the fifth Ministerial Conference of Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2005. It will comprise closely interrelated sectoral projects and interdisciplinary activities implemented jointly with other divisions within the thematic areas of managing globalization, reducing poverty and addressing emerging social issues. The strategic

focus will be on assisting members and associate members to develop and apply gender-responsive policies and programmes, particularly towards attaining Millennium Development Goals 1 and 7. The subprogramme will promote wider participation of all stakeholders, including civil society, in regional and national decision-making processes relating to sustainable development. In addition, it will support multilateral and bilateral cooperation in environmental protection and environmentally sustainable management of energy and water resources. It will also seek to collaborate with other United Nations agencies and international organizations in the development of tools and networks to support the foregoing projects and interdisciplinary activities.

Subprogramme 7
Information, communication and space technology

Objective of the Organization: to improve equitable access to, and use of, information, communication and space technology so as to ensure benefits are available to all, leading to the region's economic and social advancement and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Strengthened national capacity to design, develop and implement national information, communication and space technology policies and programmes, including development initiatives that facilitate equitable access to information, communication and space technology, with special emphasis on achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and the Plan of Action of the World Summit on the Information Society	(a) (i) Increased number of measures taken to improve regulatory framework (ii) Increased number of countries using tools developed by ESCAP initiatives to promote the development and use of information, communication and space technology
(b) Strengthened national capacity, partnerships and regional cooperative mechanisms for the use of space technology for achieving internationally agreed development goals and disaster reduction	(b) Increased number of stakeholders supporting the regional cooperative mechanisms
(c) Improved national and institutional capacity through training programmes in the use of information and communication technology for the purposes of socio-economic development	(c) (i) Increased number of training courses provided to policymakers and trainers (ii) Increased number of requests for advisory services in the use of information and communication technology
(d) Strengthened national capacity to nurture and promote national innovation systems to create an enabling environment for technology transfer in order for countries of the region to meet development challenges in the global economy	(d) Increased number of countries participating in technology transfer mechanisms, including regional networks

Strategy

15.25 The substantive responsibility for this subprogramme lies with the Information, Communication and Space Technology Division, with support from the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology and the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development. The strategic direction of the subprogramme derives mainly from the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, the 2005 World Summit Outcome, the Plan of Action of the World Summit on the Information Society, the Shanghai Declaration, Building the information society in Asia and the Pacific, and other relevant mandates.

15.26 The subprogramme will place emphasis on assistance towards the least developed countries, countries with economies in transition and small island developing States to strengthen their national capacities in the use of information, communication and space technology, especially for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. In line with the Shanghai Declaration, the subprogramme, through regional cooperation and capacity-building programmes, will work towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals and the Plan of Action of the World Summit on the Information Society by 2015. Emphasis will also be placed on transforming the digital divide into digital opportunities and bringing the benefits of information and communication technology to all. To implement the activities of the subprogramme more effectively and to avoid duplication of effort, strategic partnerships will be built with other United Nations organizations and national and regional stakeholders, such as the Asian Development Bank, UNDP, the International Telecommunication Union, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the private sector.

Subprogramme 8
Social development, including persistent and emerging issues

Objective of the Organization: to strengthen enabling institutions for delivery of equitable social services and integration of social dimensions into the development process, in line with internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Increased national capacity for gender mainstreaming in priority areas	(a) Increased percentage of participants in relevant meetings and workshops who indicate increased knowledge of gender mainstreaming, including promoting gender-responsive governance
(b) Increased national capacity to build enabling institutions and to formulate and implement measures for improving health, in line with the Millennium Development Goals	(b) Increased percentage of participants in relevant meetings and workshops who indicate their increased knowledge of policy options in order to build enabling institutions and to formulate and implement measures so as to achieve health-related Millennium Development Goals

(c) Increased national capacity to integrate social dimensions into diverse development sectors, including addressing population concerns and the needs of socially vulnerable groups	(c) (i) Increased percentage of participants in relevant meetings and workshops who indicate their increased knowledge of policy options addressing population concerns and the needs of socially vulnerable groups (ii) Increased number of Governments that have developed plans to promote the integration of social dimensions into diverse development sectors

Strategy

15.27 The substantive responsibility for this subprogramme lies with the Emerging Social Issues Division. The strategic direction of the subprogramme derives from the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, as well as from the 2005 World Summit Outcome and the Shanghai Declaration. The resolution on the Second Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 2003-2012, also provides strategic direction for regional activities towards the achievement on an inclusive, barrier-free and rights-based society for persons with disabilities. The subprogramme aims to enhance the capacity of members and associate members for building enabling institutions for the delivery of equitable social services and the integration of social dimensions into the development process, including gender mainstreaming.

15.28 During the biennium 2008-2009, the subprogramme will focus on improving the capacity of national Governments and civil society actors to strengthen national institutions for providing essential social and health services to the vulnerable and disadvantaged population groups, emphasizing a rights-based approach, which is critical to achieving the Millennium Development Goals in the region. Strategic partnerships will be developed with concerned United Nations agencies and other international organizations.

Legislative mandates

General Assembly resolutions

55/2	United Nations Millennium Declaration (all subprogrammes)
55/279	Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010 (subprogrammes 1, 3 and 5)
57/144	Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit (all subprogrammes)
57/270 A and B	Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields (all subprogrammes)

58/213 A and B	Further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (subprogrammes 3, 5 and 6)
58/218	Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (subprogrammes 4 and 6)
58/230	Follow-up and implementation of the outcome of the International Conference on Financing for Development (subprogrammes 1 and 4)
59/4	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization (subprogrammes 4, 5 and 6)
59/5	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (all subprogrammes)
59/185	The right to development (subprogrammes 1 and 8)
59/229	Further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (subprogrammes 1 and 4)
59/240	Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence (subprogrammes 1, 4 and 7)
59/243	Integration of the economies in transition into the world economy (subprogrammes 1 and 4)
59/245	Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation (subprogrammes 4 and 5)
59/250	Triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system (all subprogrammes)
60/1	2005 World Summit Outcome (all subprogrammes)
60/194	Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (subprogrammes 3, 5 and 6)
60/228	Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries: high-level meeting on the midterm comprehensive global review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010 (subprogrammes 1, 3 and 5)

Economic and Social Council resolutions

37 (IV)	Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East
1895 (LVII)	Change of name of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East
1998/46	Further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields (all subprogrammes)
2000/5	Decade of Greater Mekong Subregion Development Cooperation, 2000-2009 (subprogrammes 4 and 5)
2002/2	Restructuring the conference structure of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (all subprogrammes)
2004/6	Shanghai Declaration (Shanghai Declaration (all subprogrammes)
2004/7	Work of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in implementing its technical cooperation projects (all subprogrammes)
2005/31	Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system (all subprogrammes)
2005/44	Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010 (subprogrammes 1, 3 and 5)
2005/305	Promoting coordination and consolidation of the work of the functional commissions (all subprogrammes)

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolutions

56/1	Decade of Greater Mekong Subregion Development Cooperation, 2000-2009 (subprogrammes 1,4 and 5)
59/4	Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010 (all subprogrammes)
60/1	Shanghai Declaration (all subprogrammes)
60/3	Work of ESCAP in implementing its technical cooperation projects (all subprogrammes)
61/1	Midterm review concerning the functioning of the conference structure of the Commission (all subprogrammes)
61/10	Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly of 18/05/2005 (subprogrammes 2 and 8)
62/1	Achieving the Millennium Development Goals in the ESCAP region (all subprogrammes)

62/2 Jakarta Declaration on enhancing regional cooperation in infrastructure development, including that related to disaster management (subprogrammes 1, 5 and 6)

62/11 Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010 (all subprogrammes)

62/12 Strengthening Pacific island developing countries and territories through regional cooperation (subprogrammes 3, 4 and 5)

Subprogramme 1
Poverty and development

General Assembly resolutions

56/205 Special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)

58/230 Follow-up to and implementation of the outcome of the International Conference on Financing for Development

59/222 International financial system and development

59/223 External debt crisis and development

59/225 Follow-up to and implementation of the outcome of the International Conference on Financing for Development

59/246 Role of microcredit and microfinance in the eradication of poverty

59/247 Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006)

59/293 Modalities for the High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development

Economic and Social Council resolutions

2005/39 Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Secondary Crops Development in Asia and the Pacific

2005/45 Promoting an integrated approach to rural development in developing countries for poverty eradication and sustainable development

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolutions

61/5 Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Secondary Crops Development in Asia and the Pacific

Subprogramme 2
Statistics

Economic and Social Council resolutions

2005/13	2010 World Population and Housing Census Programme
2005/36	Statute of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolutions

246 (XLII)	Statistical services in Asia and the Pacific
57/4	Regional cooperation in information and communication technologies for development
58/3	World Summit on Sustainable Development
61/2	Statute of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific
62/10	Strengthening statistical capacity in Asia and the Pacific

Subprogramme 3
Development of Pacific island countries and territories

General Assembly resolutions

59/20	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Pacific Islands Forum

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolutions

237 (XL)	The Commission's activities in the Pacific
60/6	Revitalization of the United Nations ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre
60/7	Pacific Urban Agenda
62/9	Regional follow-up to the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

Subprogramme 4
Trade and investment

General Assembly resolutions

59/249 Industrial development cooperation

Economic and Social Council resolutions

2005/37 Statute of the United Nations Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolutions

57/5 Integration of Asian and Pacific developing countries and economies in transition into the international trading system

61/3 Statute of the United Nations Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery

62/6 Managing globalization through strengthened regional cooperation in trade and investment

Subprogramme 5
Transport and tourism

General Assembly resolutions

55/279 Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010

58/201 Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries

60/5 Improving Global Road Safety

Economic and Social Council resolutions

2001/37 Global Code of Ethics for Tourism

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolutions

55/1 Sustainable development of inland water transport in the Asian and Pacific region

60/4 Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network

61/11 Implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries

62/3 Implementation of the Plan of Action for Sustainable Tourism Development in Asia and the Pacific, phase II (2006-2012) and the Regional Action Programmes for Sustainable Tourism Development

62/4 Intergovernmental Agreement on the Trans-Asian Railway Network

Subprogramme 6
Environment and sustainable development

General Assembly resolutions

58/210 Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy, including the implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005

58/217 International Decade for Action, "Water for Life", 2005-2015

58/218 Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development

Economic and Social Council resolutions

2001/21 Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolutions

61/9 Fifth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific

62/7 Strengthening regional cooperation and coordination of early warning system arrangements for tsunamis through the Multi-Donor Voluntary Trust Fund on Tsunami Early Warning Arrangements in the Indian Ocean and Southeast Asia

Subprogramme 7
Information, communication and space technology

General Assembly resolutions

59/116 International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space

Economic and Social Council resolutions

2005/38 Statute of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology

2005/40 Establishment of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolutions

61/4	Statute of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology
61/6	Establishment of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development
62/5	Building the information society in Asia and the Pacific

Subprogramme 8
Social development, including persistent and emerging issues

General Assembly resolutions

S-26/2	Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS
56/115	Implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons: towards a society for all in the twenty-first century
56/117	Policies and programmes involving youth
56/128	Traditional or customary practices affecting the health of women and girls
56/168	Comprehensive and integral international convention to promote and protect the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities
57/177	Situation of older women in society
58/3	Enhancing capacity-building in global public health
58/15	Preparations for and observance of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2004
58/142	Women and political participation
58/145	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
58/206	Women in development
59/27	Enhancing capacity-building in global public health
59/111	Celebrating the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family
59/149	United Nations Literacy Decade: education for all
59/165	Working towards the elimination of crimes against women and girls committed in the name of honour
59/166	Trafficking in women and girls

59/167	Elimination of all forms of violence against women, including crimes identified in the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"
59/168	Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly
59/241	International migration and development
59/248	World Survey on the role of women in development
60/2	Policies and programmes involving youth
60/130	Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly
60/133	Follow-up to the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family and beyond
60/135	Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing
60/136	In-depth study on all forms of violence against women
60/139	Violence against women migrant workers
60/140	Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly
60/224	Preparations for and organization of the 2006 follow-up meeting on the outcome of the twenty-sixth special session: implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS
60/227	International migration and development

Economic and Social Council resolutions

2003/14	Modalities for the review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002
2003/44	Agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women on women's participation in and access of women to the media, and information and communication technologies and their impact on and use as an instrument for the advancement and empowerment of women
2004/10	Situation of women and girls in Afghanistan
2004/11	Agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women on the role of men and boys in achieving gender equality

2004/12	Agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women on women's equal participation in conflict prevention, management and resolution and in post-conflict peacebuilding

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolutions

57/1	Regional call for action to fight the human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome in Asia and the Pacific
58/4	Promoting an inclusive, barrier-free and rights-based society for people with disabilities in the Asian and Pacific region in the twenty-first century
59/1	Regional action in follow-up to the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS
59/2	Strengthening social safety in the Asian and Pacific region
59/3	Regional implementation of the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action towards an Inclusive Barrier-free and Rights-based Society for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific during the Decade of Disabled Persons, 2003-2012
60/2	Regional call for action to enhance capacity-building in public health
61/7	Regional cooperation for the protection of vulnerable people through the promotion of economic and social aspects of human security as a follow-up to the Shanghai Declaration
61/8	Mid-point review of the implementation of the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action towards an Inclusive Barrier-free and Rights-based Society for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific
61/12	Regional call for action to enhance capacity-building in public health
62/8	Implementation of the International Plan of Action for the United Nations Literacy Decade